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BC Fisheries
Performance Plan
2001/02 - 2003/04



**Ministry of Agriculture,
Food and Fisheries**







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Performance Plan
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Food and Fisheries**

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

In March 2000, The Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Fisheries were brought under the responsibility of one minister. Although the two organizations remain administratively separate, the new umbrella is the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. This *Performance Plan* sets out the 2001/02 to 2003/04 priorities, goals and objectives for *BC Fisheries* only. Agriculture and Food performance planning information is published separately.

To obtain additional copies of *BC Fisheries Performance Plan 2001/02 to 2003/04*, please contact:

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Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data
BC Fisheries.
BC Fisheries performance plan. -- 2001/2002 - 2003/2004

Annual.
ISSN 1492-4714 = BC Fisheries performance plan

1. BC Fisheries - Periodicals. 2. Fishery policy British Columbia - Periodicals.
3. Fisheries - British Columbia - Periodicals. I. Title.

SH224.B7B74

354.5'7'0971105

C00-960196-1

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BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

INTRODUCTION

Overview of the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector

The fish resource, and the fisheries that they sustain, are a dynamic and vital component of both the economy and culture of British Columbia, affecting communities throughout the province. Coastal communities traditionally have had the least diversified economies and are dependent on fishing or forestry related activities for their economic well-being. Salmon and other fish species play an important role in the traditions and culture of First Nations. This importance is constitutionally enshrined in the priority access for food, social and ceremonial harvest for First Nations.

Historically the wild salmon have dominated the commercial fishing industry in British Columbia. However, today the marine and fresh waters of the province provide the seafood industry with more than 80 commercially harvested or farmed species of finfish, shellfish and plants.

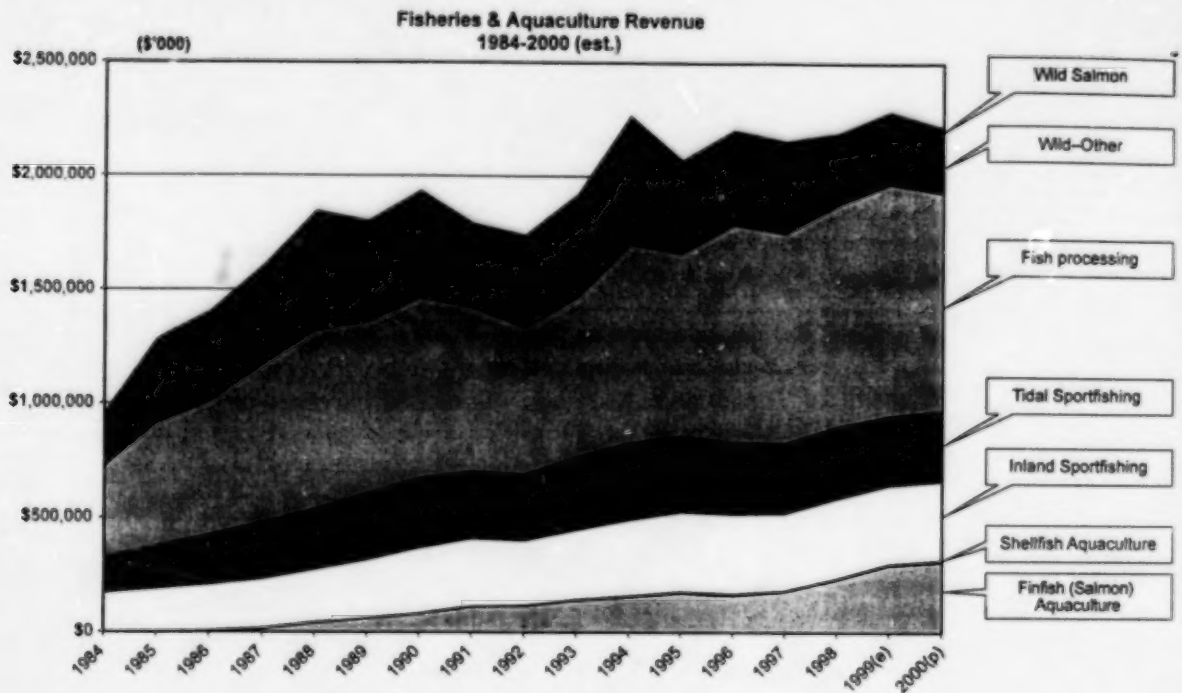
A common misconception is that the fishing industry is in decline. Despite the recent downturn in the commercial salmon fishery, the fisheries and aquaculture sector continues to outperform every other natural-resource-based sector except mining. Significant changes in fisheries management and aquaculture practices over the last 20 years have resulted in major advances in the environmental sustainability of seafood resources in British Columbia.

Fishing is British Columbia's fourth largest primary sector following forestry, mining and agriculture, and seafood is British Columbia's top food export. Over 90 per cent of all seafood production is exported, and in 2000, the province accounted for 25 per cent of the total value of all seafood exports from Canada. The fisheries and aquaculture sector is comprised of four major activities: commercial fishing, aquaculture (finfish and shellfish farming), fish processing and recreational fishing (freshwater and saltwater).

The commercial fishery in British Columbia is diversifying, placing an increased emphasis on species other than salmon. Technological advances have led to the development of a growing aquaculture industry in the province. In addition, a variety of businesses catering to recreational anglers have sprung up in the province, and recreational fishing activities are an important component of the province's tourism sector.

In 2000, the fishing industry contributed more than \$2 billion in gross revenues to the provincial economy, more than double the revenue of \$958 million in 1984 (Fig.1). Much of the economic activity associated with the sector is located in rural communities. The freshwater recreational fishing component is spread throughout the rural interior while the rest of the fishery activity occurs in communities along the coast.

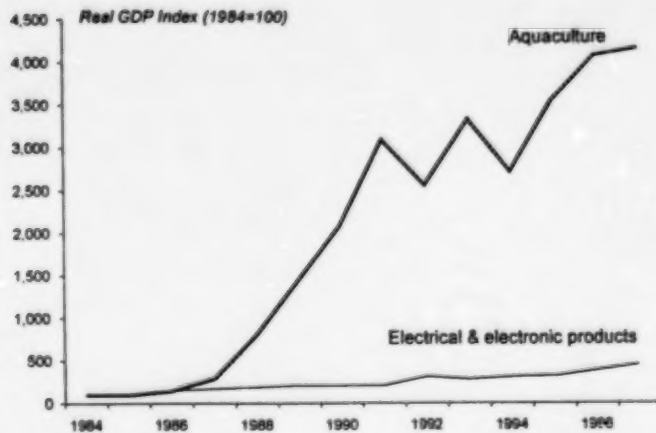
Figure 1: Fisheries Sector Revenues by Major Group



The various segments of the fisheries sector have seen different growth patterns in GDP¹ since 1984. Commercial fishing, despite ups and downs has stayed virtually the same, while fish processing activities have expanded 13 per cent. However, the most significant change has been in the aquaculture industry, with an increase of more than 4,000 per cent. Since 1984, the aquaculture industry has increased ten times as much as the fast-growing electrical and electronic products manufacturing industry – the fastest growing component of the high-tech sector (Fig.2).

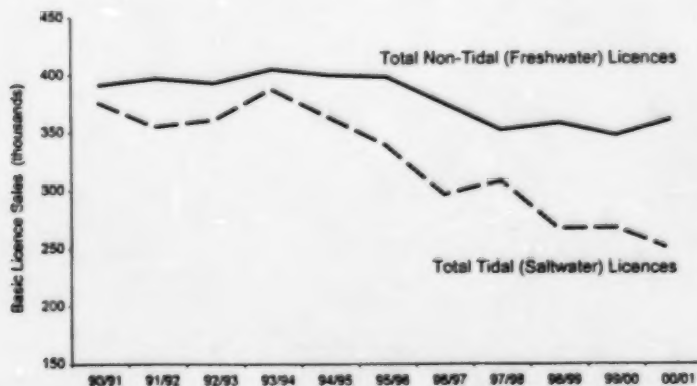
¹Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is a measure of the value added by an industry or activity to the economy. It is equal to total revenue from the sale of goods or services produced by the industry less the cost of materials and purchased services consumed in the process of production.

Figure 2: Aquaculture Growth



The recreational fishery is a vital component of the fisheries and aquaculture sector. In terms of annual revenues generated, it is second only to fish processing. However, if GDP is used as the measure of economic activity, this order is reversed with the recreational sector being the largest. The contribution of the recreational fishery to the province's economy is important due to its strong links to the tourism sector – 75 to 80 per cent of all recreational fishery activities are tourism-related. Over the past several years, there has been a downward trend in angling licence sales, predominantly in the tidal sector, as a result of reduced angling opportunities due to conservation concerns. Licence sales for fresh water angling have been more stable and have recently shown an upward trend (Fig.3).

Figure 3: Tidal and Non-Tidal Licence Sales

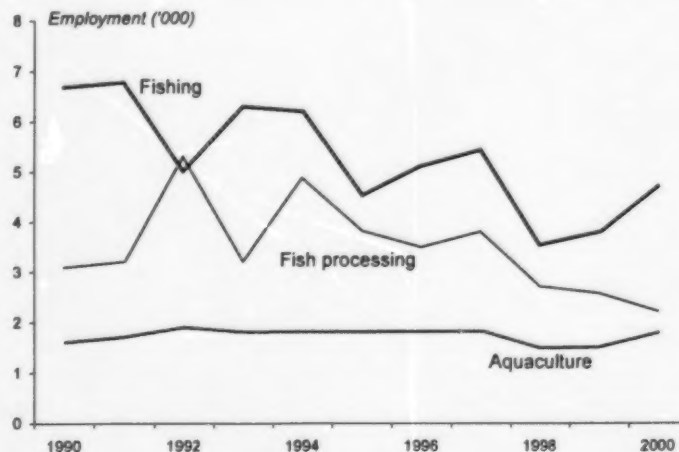


Employment Trends

Both commercial fishing and fish processing employ fewer British Columbians than they did at the beginning of the decade. For the commercial fishery, monthly average employment over the decade fell by 39 per cent from 6.8 thousand to 3.8 thousand. The decline in employment reflects the federal government's efforts to reduce the size of the fishing fleet in order to help preserve salmon stocks and other vulnerable species (Fig. 4).

Employment in fish product manufacturing was quite volatile during the early part of the 1990s and generally declined in the second half of the decade. In addition, there was a marked regional aspect to changing levels in fish processing employment, with Vancouver Island experiencing a 35 per cent increase in fish processing employment levels, and the Lower Mainland experiencing a 35 per cent decrease. Employment in the aquaculture sector remained relatively stable over the decade while employment in the recreational fishery decreased approximately 25 per cent, again as a result from conservation concerns in the tidal sector.

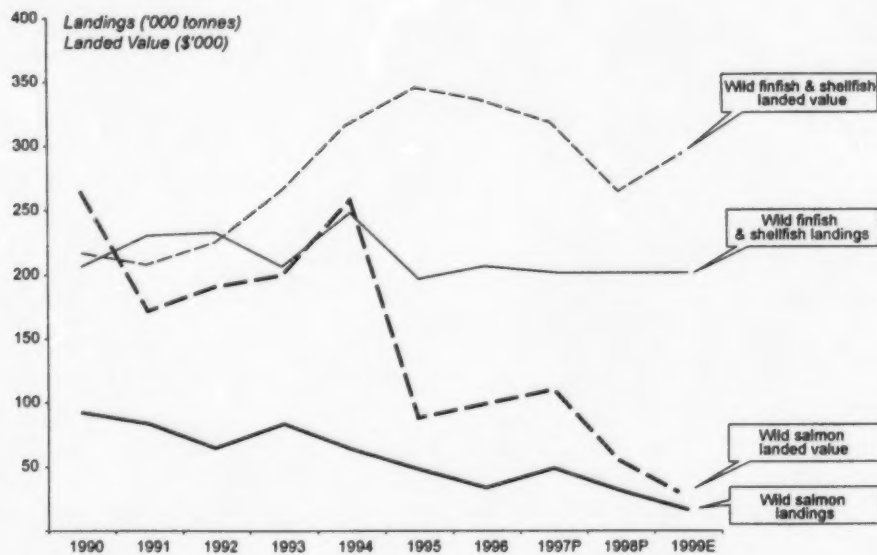
Figure 4: Employment



Commercial Fish Landings

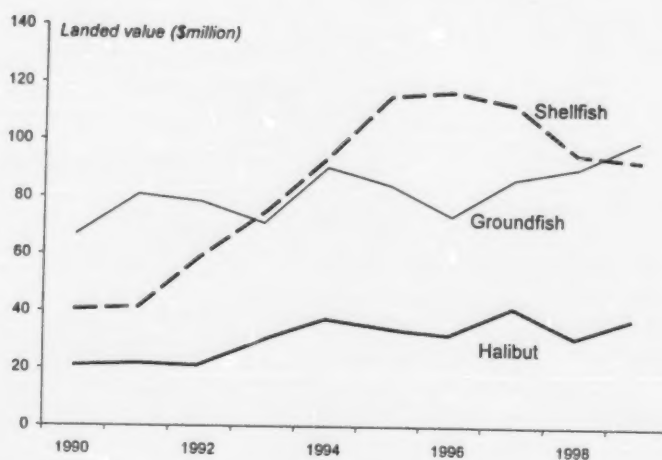
The quantity and value of the wild salmon catch has dwindled during the 1990s, but industry is diversifying into other species. In 1990, more than half of the total value of the catch was wild salmon. By the end of the decade, salmon accounted for just \$25 million (approximately 10%) of the total landed value (Fig.5).

Figure 5: Landings



Price increases helped sustain the fishery during the 1990s. While the actual catch of some species, notably some groundfish species, increased during this period, the volume of the fish catch has been declining for most species. However, revenues for the landed catch have remained relatively unchanged as a result of increasing prices paid for some species. The landed value of geoduck, other shellfish and groundfish caught by B.C. fishermen has increased substantially since 1990, despite a decline in the volume of the catch (Fig.6).

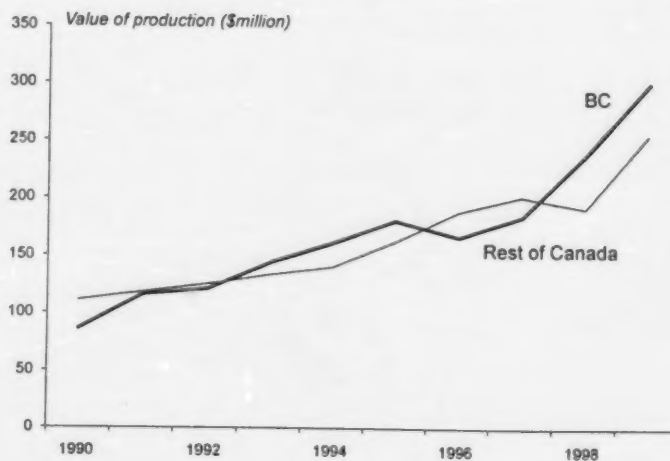
Figure 6: Landed Values



Value of Aquaculture Production

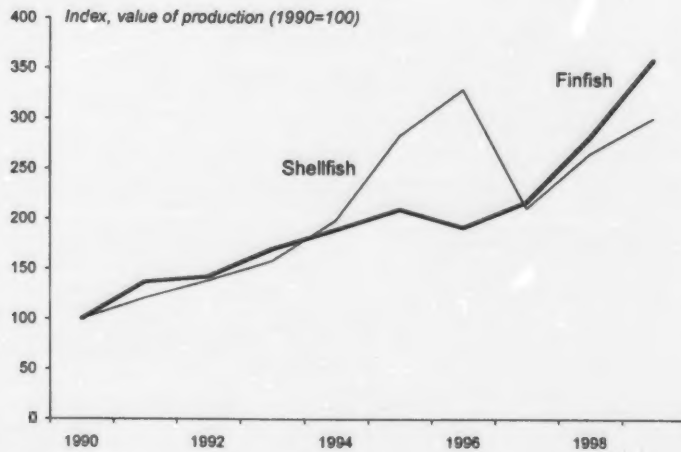
British Columbia's aquaculture industry is the largest in the country. The value of farmed finfish and shellfish produced in British Columbia is greater than in all the other provinces combined (Fig.7).

Figure 7: Value of Aquaculture Production (BC comparison to Canada)



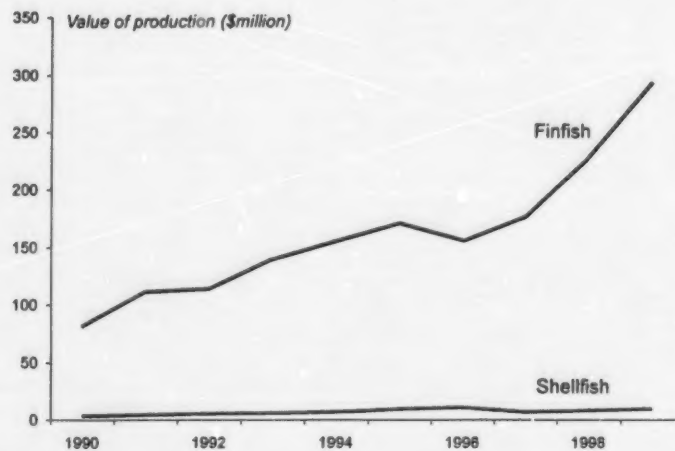
Finfish aquaculture (mainly salmon) production dominates the province's aquaculture industry, accounting for almost all of the \$303 million worth of fish produced in the province in 1999 (Fig.8).

Figure 8: Value of Production



Although shellfish production accounts for a small percentage of total aquaculture production, the industry has displayed good revenue growth during the 1990s (Fig.9). Both finfish and shellfish producers have tripled their revenues during this period. In the shellfish farming industry, this was largely due to higher prices for the province's farmed shellfish products. Finfish farmers have expanded their production, while prices have remained fairly steady during this period.

Figure 9: Index, value of production



Summary

To reach its full potential the fisheries and aquaculture sector must continue to evolve and adapt. Inherent in this is a strong emphasis on conservation, which requires that people should derive social, economic, recreational and cultural benefits from the fisheries in a sustainable manner. *BC Fisheries* has a leadership role in managing and sustaining British Columbia's diverse and valuable fisheries resource.

BC Fisheries has developed a three-year performance plan that reflects an integrated approach to policy development and program design that promotes economic development of the industry in an environmentally sustainable manner. This performance plan is geared to results and is committed to the principles of accountability and performance measurement. The success of our performance plan will depend on our effectiveness in partnering with industry, First Nations, environmental organizations and other federal and provincial agencies.

VISION

We envision a future with healthy, naturally diverse fish populations and a sustainably managed fisheries and aquaculture industry.

MISSION

BC Fisheries in partnership with British Columbians will:

- ▲ Work to protect, restore and manage our fish populations and aquatic ecosystems;
- ▲ Lead the development and diversification of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors; and
- ▲ Manage the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to provide economic, environmental and social benefits for all British Columbians.

MANAGING THE FISHERY

Management of the British Columbia fishery is complex and requires that all partners work co-operatively to ensure that the fish resource is managed to provide sustainable benefits for all citizens. We do this by developing agreements and protocols, sharing information and expertise, and undertaking joint initiatives with other governments and stakeholder groups (See Appendix B – Agreements and Partnerships with Other Agencies).

Constitutionally the federal government has authority over the management of both seacoast and inland fisheries, including aboriginal fisheries. Fisheries and Oceans Canada exercises this authority through the federal *Fisheries Act (Canada)*. Pursuant to this Act, responsibility for the regulation of the fresh water recreational fishery has been delegated to the province. The federal government also regulates export trade and ensures all fish processing activities for export products meet federal standards.

British Columbia is responsible for the regulation of business within the province. In addition to managing the fresh water recreational fishery, the province regulates fish buying, vending and processing activities (See Appendix A – Legislative Responsibilities). The province also regulates and licenses the aquaculture business and manages Crown land tenures required for aquaculture operations. In addition, the province has responsibility for the management of aquatic plants and, by agreement with the federal government, the management of the oyster fishery. Within the provincial government, *BC Fisheries* and the Ministry of Environment,

Lands and Parks are responsible for the management of fish habitat and the freshwater fishery.

Over the past 15 to 20 years, economic growth in areas that involve provincial jurisdiction has increased substantially – from 58 per cent of total industry revenues in 1984 to 73 per cent in 2000. This growth has occurred primarily in the fish processing and commercial aquaculture sectors. Coastal communities have been a benefactor of this growth. The role of *BC Fisheries* is to foster that growth in an environmentally sustainable manner.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

British Columbia's fisheries and aquaculture sector will continue to face significant challenges and opportunities for development and diversification and for resource management. World seafood markets have become increasingly competitive, and heightened public awareness of environmental and conservation issues is leading to shifts in purchasing behaviour and lifestyle choices.

Challenges

- ▲ Changing environmental conditions, for example climate change and its effect upon habitat, will continue to exert pressures on the composition and abundance of fisheries resources, and on international fishing arrangements.
- ▲ Maintaining bio-diversity and distribution of native fish populations.
- ▲ Declining fish populations while global demand for seafood is increasing.
- ▲ Meeting global competition with respect to prices and market demand for British Columbia's fisheries products – both traditional and non-traditional products.
- ▲ Maintaining market share for traditional products and developing market share for new seafood products.
- ▲ Increasing public awareness of and response to environmental and conservation issues is reflected in international conservation efforts (Food and Agricultural Organization Responsible Fishing Practices) and marketplace initiatives such as eco-certification.
- ▲ Continuing trade barriers limiting access for British Columbia products.
- ▲ Growing demand for increased stakeholder and community involvement in fisheries decisions.
- ▲ Changing British Columbia fisheries management regimes to a more precautionary approach to conservation.

- ▲ Securing a fair share of the conservation and harvest benefits of migratory international fisheries stocks for British Columbia.
- ▲ Obtaining certainty in resource allocations among First Nations, communities, industry and other interested parties in British Columbia.
- ▲ Ensuring a stable regulatory and business climate for all fisheries and aquaculture businesses, stakeholders and communities.

Opportunities

- ▲ Increasing world demand for seafood.
- ▲ Increasing global and provincial reliance on finfish and shellfish aquaculture.
- ▲ Capitalizing on opportunities to develop and diversify seafood products as climate change alters species mix and distribution, for example with sardines.
- ▲ Expanding angling activities in rural areas of the province to support local economies.
- ▲ Capitalizing on new harvesting and processing opportunities that match products and niche markets.
- ▲ Supporting generic marketing initiatives for B.C. seafood including "branding" of British Columbia seafood products, and encouraging expansion of loyalty for British Columbia products.
- ▲ Utilizing industry's structural changes and British Columbia's international reputation for quality products, to position the British Columbia industry as a leader in new high quality "sustainable" products.
- ▲ Working with industry and other agencies to deal with international trade agreements, to reduce and eliminate barriers to trade.
- ▲ Using technologies such as the Internet to increase market opportunities for all British Columbia seafood products and sport fish experiences.
- ▲ Expanding and diversifying the shellfish aquaculture industry through the Shellfish Development Initiative.
- ▲ Developing pilot programs for new technology and new aquaculture species for domestic use and technology transfer.
- ▲ Working with all levels of government to provide a stable regulatory framework for the aquaculture industry and encouraging new technology to address environmental concerns.
- ▲ Supporting conservation and species-at-risk objectives.
- ▲ Increasing knowledge and access to databases and statistics.

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- ▲ Expanding the information base on trade and market opportunities to help industry compete.
- ▲ Implementing advances in stream and lake-restoration technology to recover fish populations.
- ▲ Encouraging the development and use of new technologies and practices that address global competition and environmental concerns:
 - Encouraging the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture products and value-added processing to expand the sector in coastal communities;
 - Expanding the use of new species and more efficient use of current species; and
 - Supporting adaptation to new types of processing.
- ▲ Ensuring there is a well-trained, skilled and adaptable workforce for new conservation, restoration, harvesting, culturing and processing opportunities.
- ▲ Utilizing the *BC Fisheries'* Web site and other information technology to provide:
 - Greater access to information regarding the fish resource, its habitat and the fishery;
 - Increased responsiveness and greater interaction between *BC Fisheries* and First Nations, coastal and rural communities, industry, environmental groups and municipal and federal governments; and
 - Enhanced delivery of *BC Fisheries'* programs.

VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

Values

The following values outline the fundamental beliefs of *BC Fisheries* and describe how the organization and its employees interact with clients and each other. *BC Fisheries* will conduct its business in a manner that is:

Fair & Equitable – adopting a leadership role in the decision-making process that recognizes a diversity of views and values;

Responsible and Accountable – emphasizing responsible use of government resources and transparency in accounting for the use of those resources;

Responsive – responding to the needs of staff, fisheries sector groups and communities in a timely and courteous manner; and

Co-operative – promoting teamwork, good working relationships, and effective partnerships with and co-operation among all orders of government, First Nations, fisheries sector groups and communities.

Principles

BC Fisheries is committed to the following principles in the management of fish, fish habitat and the fisheries both in its own activities and in the co-ordination and support of the activities and programs of other agencies:

Conservation – ensuring the conservation of native fish and their habitat, including wetlands and riparian areas, and ultimately the conservation and maintenance of genetic and ecosystem biodiversity;

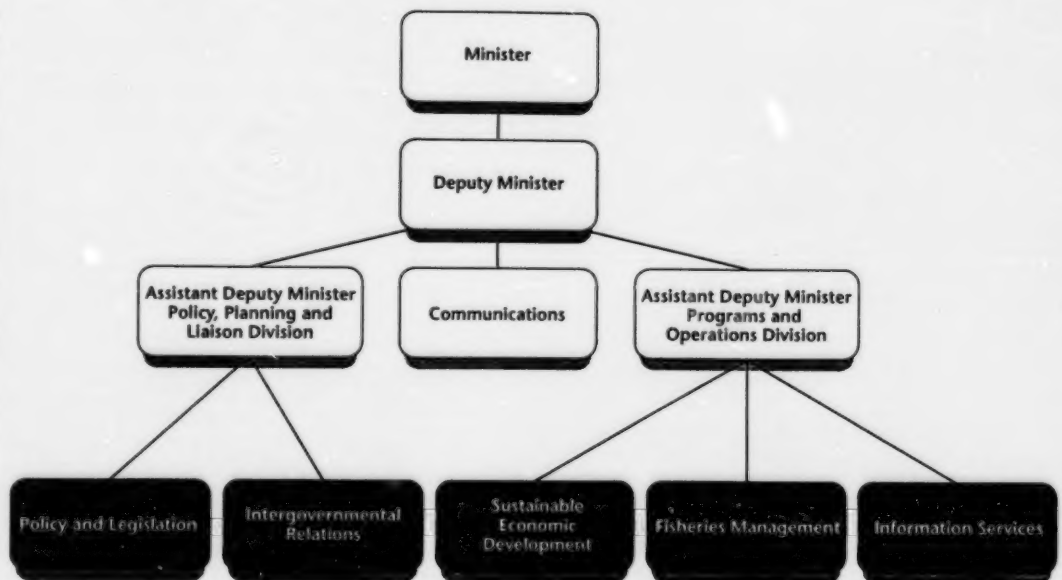
Precautionary Approach – applying the precautionary approach to the conservation, management and use of aquatic resources in order to protect fish and the aquatic environment;

Sustainable Use – ensuring the sustainable use of fish species in order to meet the needs of present and future generations;

First Nations Rights – recognizing and respecting the aboriginal and treaty rights of First Nations; and

Capacity Building – providing the mechanisms to ensure sustainable self-sufficient communities in rural areas.

BC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION



MAJOR PROGRAM AREAS

BC Fisheries' strategy is delivered through two major program areas: Development and Diversification, and Conservation and Enhancement.

Development and Diversification:

- ▲ Commercial fisheries development and diversification;
- ▲ Finfish and shellfish aquaculture development;
- ▲ Seafood marketing development and diversification of the processing sector;
- ▲ Sport fish development and diversification;
- ▲ Fish culture operations and research; and
- ▲ Capacity building and research associated with new technology.

Conservation and Enhancement:

- ▲ Conservation and management of freshwater fisheries;
- ▲ Licensing and regulation of the commercial seafood industry, aquaculture and the freshwater recreational fishery;
- ▲ Research activities relating to fish and fisheries;
- ▲ Direction and support to the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks regional fisheries;
- ▲ Fisheries database management; and
- ▲ Inventory coordination, planning and standards.

LINKS TO GOVERNMENT'S STRATEGIC PLAN

BC Fisheries' two major program areas strongly support two of the key goals in the government's Strategic Plan:

1. Growing and Diversifying the Economy; and
2. Protecting Our Environment.

The Development and Diversification program supports the goal of Growing and Diversifying the Economy by:

- ▲ Increasing economic development opportunities from fisheries and aquaculture related activities in rural and coastal communities;
- ▲ Enhancing export opportunities and market demand for British Columbia seafood;
- ▲ Increasing training opportunities in the fisheries and aquaculture sector; and
- ▲ Supporting research and development and the use of innovative technology.

The Conservation and Enhancement program supports the goal of Protecting our Environment by:

- ▲ Ensuring the sustainability of the fisheries through the delivery of fisheries management, conservation and assessment programs;
- ▲ Enhancing the productive capacity of freshwater fish and habitat;
- ▲ Identifying fish species and populations at risk and developing recovery plans; and
- ▲ Licensing and regulating freshwater angling and guiding to maintain natural/wild freshwater fish populations.

KEY INITIATIVES

Within the two major program areas, *BC Fisheries* has implemented a number of key initiatives:

1. Shellfish Development
2. Salmon Aquaculture
3. Inland Sport Fish Development Initiative
4. Fisheries Development and Diversification

5. Increasing Water for Fish
6. *BC Fisheries* On-line
7. Species-at-Risk Recovery Program
8. Enhancing Relationships with other Governments

Shellfish Development

The Shellfish Development Project began in November 1998, with the primary objective of addressing the major constraints to industry expansion – access to new growing areas and the development of new species. In 1998, the industry consisted of 432 shellfish aquaculture tenures occupying 2300 hectares of inter-tidal and sub-tidal land with three major species (oysters, clams and scallops) under culture.

The initiative has three main strategies:

1. Expansion of existing tenures;
2. New tenure development; and
3. Increasing the number of approved species under culture.

To date, the joint B.C. Assets and Land Corporation and *BC Fisheries* office in Nanaimo has approved 29 applications, consisting of 124 hectares of land for expansion of existing tenures. A further 275 hectares have been identified and Memoranda of Understanding have been agreed upon with First Nations to set aside 524 hectares for future development.

Priorities for next three years:

Increased area will be made available for new tenure applications through the following activities:

- ▲ Complete shellfish capability mapping for the mid and north coast to serve as a basis for community planning in the area;
- ▲ Expand the community planning process to include the north-east portion of Vancouver Island, mid and north Coasts;
- ▲ Support the development of the tenures through training, business planning and working capital funding, developed in consultation with industry and First Nations; and
- ▲ Pursue the addition of geoducks and other species.

Salmon Aquaculture

Implementation of the Salmon Aquaculture Policy Framework has been underway since October 1999. The project has three main goals:

1. A competitive industry.
 - To increase the value and global market share of the British Columbia salmon aquaculture industry.
2. A sustainable environment.
 - To reduce and minimize the impact upon British Columbia's wild fish, marine mammals, bird and wildlife populations and their fresh and saltwater environments.
3. Social sustainability.
 - To increase employment and economic development in cooperation with First Nations, local communities and other natural resources.

To date, four existing salmon farms have been relocated and seven more are well underway. New regulations and escape recovery plans have been developed to improve husbandry practices to prevent escapes of farmed salmon. Five pilot projects have been approved to test new closed-containment and other alternate technology.

Priorities for next three years:

- ▲ Complete the relocation of poorly sited farms;
- ▲ Continue to work with industry to prevent and reduce escapes;
- ▲ Complete the implementation of 10 pilot projects that will test alternative technology in both the marine and freshwater environments;
- ▲ Ensure that all farms have fish health management plans in place, and that a fish health database is fully operational, thereby assisting industry to make informed decisions to protect fish health; and
- ▲ Ensure that industry is in compliance with the new management framework created under the Salmon Aquaculture Policy Framework.

Inland Sport Fish Development Initiative

Small lake fisheries account for the majority of freshwater angling in British Columbia. The Inland Sport Fish Development Initiative was developed to enhance rural economies in the province. *BC Fisheries* and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks are co-operating to implement this initiative which has four components:

1. Enhancement of freshwater fishing opportunities, through stocking and the management of systems;
2. Enhanced fisheries assessment and management programs;
3. Business diversification and development; and
4. Improved information and awareness of British Columbia freshwater fisheries.

Initially, the program focussed on the Thompson, Okanagan and Caribou regions. The initiative is planned for other regions of the province once the regional evaluation has been completed, and as additional resources are made available.

Priorities for next three years:

- ▲ Continue assessment of angler use on a variety of lakes to evaluate the quality of fishing opportunities, to provide input to future management or fishery development initiatives;
- ▲ Continue assessments of small lake fish stocks (on a rotational basis), to ensure conservation of wild populations, and to ensure performance objectives are met;
- ▲ Assess new strains of trout and, where appropriate, bring them on line to address special stocking needs;
- ▲ Complete and implement the small lake stocking policy;
- ▲ Continue to work with the tourism sector to ensure accessible information about fishing opportunities and related services; and
- ▲ Enhance *BC Fisheries'* Web site to provide fishing regulations, stocking records, biological data, physical information such as access and lake maps, and other data of interest to anglers and fisheries' managers.

Fisheries Development and Diversification

Development of the seafood industry is seen as a way of increasing the value and jobs from sustainable development of fisheries resources, and providing benefits to British Columbians. Working with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, *BC Fisheries* has initiated pilot fisheries and supported industry initiatives related to technology transfer and market development.

BC Fisheries' Development and Diversification Program has a number of objectives:

- ▲ To retain and improve world market share as a quality producer of seafood products;
- ▲ To respond to the demand for higher quality and safer products and environmentally friendly food manufacturing processes;

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- ▲ To enhance sustainable employment in coastal communities;
- ▲ To develop opportunities for new and under-utilized species;
- ▲ To enhance secondary seafood processing capability;
- ▲ To improve industry's competitive position through utilization of new technologies; and
- ▲ To develop sustainable fishing practices utilizing gear technology development and improve resource information.

Priorities for next three years:

Over the next few years, new and under-utilized species will require government support during the early stages of development. *BC Fisheries* will continue to encourage industry to apply research and technology to enhance its competitive position. Training and extension services will be provided in coastal communities, supporting job creation and ensuring the availability of a knowledgeable and skilled workforce.

Increasing Water for Fish

Providing water for fish is a major issue in many river systems in British Columbia. *BC Fisheries* plays a lead role in projects to improve flows and restore habitat conditions resulting in increased fish survival and production. The most significant water use planning initiatives involve a review of B.C. Hydro's water licences to develop water use plans, to address fish impact issues, and to recognize multiple resource objectives. To date, the Comptroller of Water Rights has issued eight interim orders to B.C. Hydro facilities on the Campbell, Puntledge, Salmon, Heber, Coquitlam, Stave, Cheakamus and Alouette rivers.

Continued implementation of the *Fish Protection Act* also ensures that water allocation decisions take the needs of fish into consideration. Under the Act, a number of streams have been designated as "fish sensitive". Pilot recovery planning is underway and regional water managers will take fish needs into consideration in future licensing decisions.

Priorities for next three years:

- ▲ Complete water use plans and associated orders from the Water Comptroller on all B.C. Hydro's generating facilities;
- ▲ Develop standards and guidelines to assess the stream flow requirements for fish in water allocation and licensing decisions;
- ▲ Complete pilot recovery plans for sensitive streams designated under the *Fish Protection Act* to provide water for fish; and

- ▲ Implement watershed fish sustainability planning framework in key priority watersheds to ensure in-stream flow requirements for fish.

BC Fisheries On-line

The future of the fishing industry in British Columbia depends, in part, on its ability to take full advantage of the new knowledge-based economy. Ensuring that industry, stakeholders and the public have timely and easy access to government services and information is a primary goal.

BC Fisheries is committed to electronic service delivery. Since April 2000, *BC Fisheries* has operated www.bcfisheries.gov.bc.ca – a comprehensive Web site that includes information on programs and services, key initiatives and current news. The FishWizard provides sophisticated interactive map access to the agency warehouse of information about fish, fish habitat and fishing. It also includes links to popular topics such as the Freshwater Fishing Regulations, hatcheries and visitor centres.

Priorities for next three years:

- ▲ Create portals to provide clients with specific information from both inside the ministry and from the World Wide Web;
- ▲ Implement systems for automated indexing and access to text documents, spreadsheets, Web pages and e-mail;
- ▲ Adopt systems to add emerging government standard management practices for electronic records to existing systems for management of hardcopy records;
- ▲ Organize and develop an "intranet" site to improve collaboration and decision-making among staff;
- ▲ Provide services and data on-line, for example electronic angling licence sales; and
- ▲ Add FishWizard tools and products to expand simple on-line access to information for stakeholders and the public.

Species-at-Risk Recovery Program

A number of species or stocks at risk have been identified and work is underway to develop recovery plans. Specific high profile species and stocks include Georgia Basin Steelhead, Nechako River and Columbia River Sturgeon and Okanagan Lake Kokanee. The program will use the new watershed fish sustainability framework and other recovery models to ensure an integrated approach. Key elements of the work will include co-ordination of many smaller community-based rehabilitation

and recovery efforts, identification of impacts, development and implementation of recovery methods, a communication plan and monitoring stock recovery.

Georgia Basin Steelhead

Steelhead stocks in the Georgia Basin have been suffering a significant decline due to a variety of inter-related factors including ocean survival, habitat loss, water withdrawals and interceptions in other fisheries. A dedicated Georgia Basin Steelhead Recovery Team of key staff from *BC Fisheries* and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks is now developing a basin-wide integrated approach to the recovery of these important fish stocks. This will involve working actively with other levels of government, First Nations, stakeholders and funding agencies to identify priority watersheds and specific projects to focus protection and recovery efforts. Recent breakthroughs in aquatic ecosystem restoration will be applied to specific river systems in the basin and will be complemented with conservation-based management regulations.

Sturgeon

White Sturgeon is an important component of the province's biological heritage. Staff has been conducting research studies on sturgeon populations and have demonstrated that three populations are at significant risk of being eliminated from B.C. waters, largely due to spawning or recruitment failure.

Large Lake Restoration

Kokanee populations have undergone major declines in many of our large lakes over the last decade, threatening to collapse entire fisheries. The major systems are the Kootenay, Arrow and Okanagan lakes. In the case of Kootenay and Arrow, experimental lake fertilization programs are restoring these populations. On Okanagan lake, a more comprehensive ecosystem evaluation is underway.

Priorities for next three years:

Georgia Basin Steelhead

- ▲ Complete a basin-wide regional recovery plan designating priority watersheds and approaches to stock recovery;
- ▲ Develop and implement specific recovery plans for priority watersheds;
- ▲ Put new specialized staff into place to lead steelhead stock assessment and recovery planning; and
- ▲ Establish long-term partnerships to fund and implement specific watershed activities.

Sturgeon

- ▲ Continue operation of the Kootenay River sturgeon hatchery in co-operation with United States agencies and partners;

- ▲ Develop and implement recovery plans for the endangered Nechako and Columbia sturgeon populations; and
- ▲ Continue monitoring of other sturgeon populations and report publicly on stock status.

Large Lake Restoration

- ▲ Continue lake-fertilization and monitoring of kokanee population recovery and ecosystem indicators on Kootenay and Arrow lakes;
- ▲ Initiate mysis shrimp removal on Okanagan Lake, secure adequate flows for fish in tributary spawning streams, and continue studies on nutrient balance; and
- ▲ Assess kokanee populations in other large lakes and reservoirs such as Quesnel Lake and Alouette Reservoir and initiate appropriate adaptive recovery activities.

Enhancing Relationships with other Governments

Complex and overlapping jurisdictions, and the nature of the British Columbia fisheries demand building and maintaining effective working relationships with Canada and other governments. Examples of activities promoted:

- ▲ Implementation of the *Canada-British Columbia Agreement on the Management of Pacific Salmon Fisheries Issues*;
- ▲ The Agreement on Inter-jurisdictional Co-operation with respect to Fisheries and Aquaculture;
- ▲ Co-operative management of British Columbia and Yukon trans-boundary waters;
- ▲ The Canada-British Columbia Fish Habitat Management Agreement; and
- ▲ A role for British Columbia in the Pacific Fisheries Legislative Task Force.

In addition to protocols for cooperation, *BC Fisheries* has supported the negotiation of fisheries provisions of treaties with First Nations. British Columbia provides active support to Canada for the negotiation of fair international catch sharing arrangements. The development of an Aquatic Management Board reflects our commitment to find more effective ways to include stakeholder participation in fisheries decision-making.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Priorities for next three years:

- ▲ Build and maintain relationships vital to achieving maximum benefits from our fisheries resources;
- ▲ Secure fair access to migratory fisheries resources;
- ▲ Continue to support the negotiation of fair treaties with First Nations; and
- ▲ Promote innovative ways for First Nations, local governments and stakeholders to have a voice in shaping their future.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goals

1. Healthy and robust fish populations and aquatic ecosystems.
2. A fisheries and aquaculture sector that achieves its full economic and social potential.
3. A management strategy and framework that will ensure the sustainable use of the resource while facilitating industry and market development.
4. A fisheries and aquaculture sector enhanced by an adaptive, skilled and educated workforce, and well-informed public.

GOAL 1: HEALTHY AND ROBUST FISH POPULATIONS AND AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS.

Objective 1: Protect, restore and enhance native fish to conserve the full range of bio-diversity values.

Key Strategies:

Identify native fish species and populations at risk and develop recovery plans.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of recovery plans initiated or completed for fish populations currently identified as being at risk.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Columbia and Nechako sturgeon recovery plans complete. Development of Georgia Basin steelhead recovery plan to be continued.
- ▲ Recovery planning template for all species finalized.
- ▲ Identification of other priority fish species and populations at risk, which require recovery plans.

Key Strategies:

Manage the introductions, stockings and transfers of cultured fish to the province's aquatic ecosystems in a manner that minimizes the impact upon wild fish populations.

Performance Measures & Targets:

- ▲ 2002/03 – 2003/04 - Identification of other priority fish species and populations at risk, and development of recovery plans.

Measure:

The review of provincial policy on fish introductions and transplants to be completed.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Review transplant application process to ensure consistency with the national code on introductions and transfers of cultured fish.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Implement the revised application process and evaluate for effectiveness.
- ▲ 2003/04 - Provide ongoing support and implement a reporting mechanism.

Measure:

A review of provincial policy on fish stocking programs to be completed.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Fish Culture Policy and procedures for stocking reviewed and projected revisions drafted.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Stakeholders consulted on potential implications of the proposed policy change.
- ▲ Revised stocking policy implemented

Key Strategies:

Act as the lead agency, and work in partnership with Fisheries Renewal B.C., the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, B.C. Hydro, Forest Renewal B.C., and other funding agencies to prioritize and implement initiatives that protect, restore and enhance fish.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of watershed-based fish sustainability plans (WFSPs) completed for key watersheds.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Rivers Inlet watershed pilot completed.
- ▲ One government-led regional (basin) scale, and one government-led watershed-level WFSP initiated.
- ▲ Support provided to four external watershed-scale WFSPs.

2002/03 and 2003/04

- ▲ Two government-led WFSPs completed and two more initiated annually.
- ▲ Support provided to external watershed-scale WFSPs as appropriate.

Licence and regulate freshwater angling to ensure fish populations are maintained at sustainable levels.

Measure:

Establish and publish annual regional angling regulations.

Targets:

2001/02 – 2003/04

- ▲ Publish by March 15.

Key Strategies:

Fund fish and fish habitat conservation activities with revenues derived from fisheries licence surcharges, through the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF).

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

The percentage of HCTF revenues that are dedicated to fisheries projects.

Targets:

2001/02 - 2003/04

- ▲ Maintain or increase from current level of 60 per cent of HCTF revenues dedicated to fisheries projects.

Outcome:

- ▲ Reduced number of fish species and populations at risk.

Objective 2: Protect, restore and enhance habitat and fish populations to maintain the productive capacity of aquatic ecosystems.

Key Strategies:

Work co-operatively with federal and local governments and First Nations to protect and manage fish habitat.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Canada/B.C. Habitat Management Agreement implemented.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Initiate Canada/B.C. Habitat Management Committee.
- ▲ Provide report to Ministers on status of work plan.

2002/03 - 2003/04

- ▲ Development and implement annual work plan.
- ▲ Provide annual report to Ministers.

Key Strategies:

Develop and apply new and innovative habitat and stock rebuilding techniques and facilities.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Experimental living gene bank program completed and evaluated.

Targets:

2001/02 – 2003/04

- ▲ Stock five systems per year.
- ▲ Complete program evaluation in 2003/04.

Measure:

Special culture facilities to support rebuilding of species and stocks at risk designed and operational.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Columbia River Sturgeon facility operational.
- ▲ Review feasibility for Nechako River Sturgeon.

2002/03 – 2003/04

- ▲ Initiate development of Nechako River facility if feasible.
- ▲ Ongoing operation of facilities.

Measure:

Number of lakes and streams for which productivity is enhanced.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Evaluate productivity of Okanagan Lake and Quesnel Lake.
- ▲ Fertilize five key rivers in Georgia Basin to compensate for reduced returns on salmon.

Key Strategies:

Performance Measures & Targets:

2002/03 – 2003/04

- ▲ Monitor and evaluate, and add additional lakes and streams as appropriate.

Provide technical input for implementation of the *Fish Protection Act* and its regulations.

Measure:

Number of Fish Recovery Plans initiated and completed on designated sensitive streams.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Two existing plans completed and implemented.
- ▲ Two additional recovery plans initiated, completed and implemented.
- ▲ 15 additional sensitive streams designated.

2002/03

- ▲ Two additional recovery plans initiated, completed and implemented.
- ▲ Additional sensitive streams designated as appropriate.

2003/04

- ▲ Two additional recovery plans initiated, completed and implemented (including additional regions).
- ▲ Additional sensitive streams designated as appropriate.

Key Strategies:

Performance Measures & Targets:

Outcomes:

- ▲ Improved protection and restoration of fish and fish habitats.
- ▲ More productive aquatic ecosystems.

Objective 3: Protect and restore water quality and quantity for fish.

Key Strategies:

As lead provincial fisheries agency, provide objectives, standards and data for comprehensive Water Use Planning.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of Water Use Plans (WUPs) developed for B.C. Hydro generation facilities for which *BC Fisheries* has provided technical input.

Targets:

2001/02 – 2003/04

- ▲ Technical input provided by *BC Fisheries* to 100 per cent of WUPs underway.

Provide direction and advice on fish conservation requirements when new or significant water withdrawals or diversions are proposed.

Measure:

Develop standards and guidelines for the review of water diversions and withdrawals.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Complete draft policy.

2002/03 – 2003/04

- ▲ Implement policy and train staff.
- ▲ Monitor and evaluate policy.

Outcome:

- ▲ Increased protection and availability of water for fish.

GOAL 2: A FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR THAT ACHIEVES ITS FULL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POTENTIAL.

Objective 1: To provide opportunities for regional growth and wealth creation by expanding and diversifying the commercial fisheries and seafood processing sectors.

Key Strategies:

Work cooperatively with the federal government to implement a policy framework to facilitate the development of new and emerging commercial fisheries.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of new and emerging fisheries for which policy frameworks have been developed and implemented.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Approved policy framework for one new fishery – sardines.

2002/03

- ▲ Approved policy framework for two new fisheries - tuna and Tanner crab.

2003/04

- ▲ Approved policy framework for two new fisheries - varnish clams and gooseneck barnacles.

Support market research, product-market match and product development for new and under-utilized species.

Measure:

Number of products exported.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Establish baseline data.

2002/03 – 2003/04

- ▲ Use information to direct market research and development and publish results for use by industry.

Key Strategies:

Collect, review and evaluate statistical data to provide a measure for industry growth.

Raise the profile and increase market demand for quality British Columbia seafood through:

- ▲ generic marketing activities;
- ▲ improving access to international markets; and
- ▲ improving product quality and efficiency of production.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measures:

Annual publications, for example, the British Columbia Seafood Year in Review and "as required" publications such as the Report on the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors.

Measure:

Number of under-utilized species identified that provide development opportunities.

Targets:

2001/02-/2003/04

- ▲ Identify development opportunities for three new species on an annual basis.

Measure:

Eco-certification of B.C. salmon fishery by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Support industry's application and pre-assessment MSC Review for B.C. salmon products.

2002/03

- ▲ Full MSC assessment of B.C. salmon products if appropriate.

2003/04

- ▲ If successful, use of MSC logo to promote B.C. salmon in world markets.

Key Strategies:

Support negotiations for fair international catch sharing arrangements for migratory species such as hake and albacore, to encourage the development of new fisheries and to expand existing fisheries.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Provincial support provided in attaining formal international catch sharing arrangements.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Provide ongoing support for negotiations and conclude hake agreement.

2002/03

- ▲ Provide ongoing support for negotiations and conclude tuna agreement.

2003/04

- ▲ Provide ongoing support for negotiations and ensure a fairer halibut agreement.

Outcome:

- ▲ 15 to 20 per cent growth in revenues in the seafood sector over a three-year period.

Objective 2: Provide sustainable economic opportunities for coastal communities including First Nations through development of the finfish aquaculture industry.

Relocate existing salmon farms that are poorly sited to increase productivity and reduce environmental impacts.

Measure:

Number of farms relocated.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ 14 poorly located farms relocated.

2002/03

- ▲ 12 poorly located farms relocated.

2003/04

- ▲ two poorly located farms relocated.

Key Strategies:

Enhance environmental sustainability by providing incentives for the use of alternate technology for finfish aquaculture.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of alternate technology pilots operational.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Five additional alternate technology pilots operational – to a total of 10 pilots.

2002/03

- ▲ Collect and review data from pilot projects.

2003/04

- ▲ Ongoing review and assessment of outcomes

Expand the number of finfish species under culture.

Measure:

Number of species cultured.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ Increase number of species cultured from five to six.

2002/03

- ▲ Increase species cultured to eight.

2003/04

- ▲ Maintain species cultured at eight.

Outcome:

- ▲ 10 to 15 per cent revenue growth in the finfish aquaculture industry.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Objective 3: Provide sustainable economic development opportunities for coastal communities including First Nations through sustainable development of the shellfish aquaculture industry.

Key Strategies:

Eliminate major constraints to the shellfish aquaculture industry achieving its full potential by increasing the amount of Crown land available for shellfish tenure and providing access to working capital for new entrants to industry.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Increase area under tenure for shellfish aquaculture.

Targets:

2001/02

▲ Increase by 800 hectares.

2002/03 – 2003/04

▲ Increase 500 hectares per year.

Measure:

Number of loans provided as start-up funding for new entrants into the shellfish aquaculture industry.

Targets:

▲ 20 new loans provided to new entrants in 2001/02 – first year of program.

▲ 10 new loans per year provided in 2002/03 and 2003/04.

Expand community shellfish planning process to mid and north coast to enhance regional economic opportunities.

Measure:

Number of community plans completed

Targets:

▲ 2001/02 - Six community plans initiated.

▲ 2002/-3 - Six community plans underway.

▲ 2003/04 - Six community plans completed.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Expand the number of shellfish species under culture (geoduck, abalone, sea urchins, varnish clams, crayfish).

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of shellfish species cultured.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Increase number of cultured species from five to six.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Increase number of cultured species to seven.
- ▲ 2003/04 - Increase number of cultured species to eight.

Create economic development opportunities for First Nations through agreements to provide shellfish aquaculture development sites.

Measures:

Area identified for First Nations development. Current base is 500 hectares.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - increase by 100 ha.
- ▲ 2002/03 - increase by 150 ha.
- ▲ 2003/04 - increase by 200 ha.

Outcome:

- ▲ 20 - 30 per cent growth in revenues in shellfish aquaculture industry over a three-year period.

Objective 4: Expand and enhance a sustainable recreational fishery to achieve its full social, cultural and economic potential.

Key Strategies:

Improve the quality and quantity of angling opportunities on freshwater.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Percentage increase in number of resident angling licences sold from 99/00 base period.

Targets:

- ▲ Increase incrementally by three per cent each year in 2001/02; 2002/03 and 2003/04.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Continue new fisheries assessment programs.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of angler surveys on small lakes.

Targets:

▲ 100 surveys each year – 2001/02 to 2003/04. Total of 300 lakes surveyed.

Measure:

Number of stock assessments on small lakes.

Targets:

▲ 30 assessments each year – 2001/02 to 2003/04. Total of 90 lakes assessed.

Enhance sport fish populations and distribution through provincial fish stocking programs.

Measure:

Number of fish stocked.

Targets:

▲ 2001/02 to 2003/04 – increase by 100,000 per year over next three years.

Measure:

Number of productive fisheries stocked by provincial fish culture program.

Targets:

▲ 2001/02 to 2003/04 – Identify 10 new systems for stocking each year.

Support diversification and development of recreational fishing businesses.

Measure:

Number of business opportunities identified.

Targets:

▲ Undertake market analysis to determine nature and location of business opportunities for recreational fishing.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Complete and implement tidal and freshwater recreational fisheries strategies.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Percentage of recommendations from strategies implemented.

Targets:

2001/02

- ▲ 80 per cent of tidal.
25 per cent of freshwater.

2002/03

- ▲ 100 per cent of tidal.
60 per cent of freshwater.

2003/04

- ▲ Review/update tidal strategy.
80 per cent of freshwater.

Promote the province as a world class destination for recreational fishing.

Measure:

Tourism revenues from sport fish activities.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Maintain at 2000/01 level.
- ▲ 2002/03 - 2003/04 - Increase five per cent per year over 2000/01 revenues.

Measure:

Percentage increase in the number of non-resident angling licences sold from the 99/00 base period.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - 2003/04 - increase of three per cent per year over base year.

Outcome:

- ▲ Ten per cent growth in revenues from recreational fishing sector over a three-year period.

GOAL 3: A MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND FRAMEWORK THAT WILL ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF THE RESOURCE WHILE FACILITATING INDUSTRY AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

Objective 1: Implement provincial fisheries and aquaculture policies and a regulatory framework that will ensure the sustainable use of the resource while facilitating industry and market development.

Key Strategies:

Support industry-led initiatives (e.g. workshops and conferences) to provide future direction for the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of industry workshops or conferences supported.

Targets:

2001/02 – 2003/04

- ▲ Seafood Summit workshop with stakeholders held on an annual basis, with recommendations to government on suggested policy or legislative changes.
- ▲ Recommendations reviewed, prioritized and implemented on an ongoing basis.
- ▲ Ongoing review and evaluation of effectiveness.

Streamline existing provincial fisheries regulatory framework to support changes in the industry.

Measure:

Legislative review document completed.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Stakeholder review carried out and policy framework established.

Measure:

New Fisheries and Aquaculture Act drafted.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Develop and implement compliance and enforcement strategies for the finfish aquaculture industry.

Objective 2: Implement a non-tidal recreational angling and guiding licensing framework that meets client needs while protecting the resource.

Key Strategies:

Provide accessible and timely licensing for resident and non-resident anglers.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Policy consultation undertaken.
- ▲ 2002/03 – Legislation and regulations drafted.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Regulations implemented.

Measure:

Plan and implement Aquaculture Compliance Strategy.

Target:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Compliance and reporting framework implemented.
- ▲ 2002/03 - 80 per cent of farms in compliance.
- ▲ 2003/04 - 95 per cent of farms in compliance.

Outcomes:

- ▲ Greater industry understanding of and support for *BC Fisheries* policies.
- ▲ A more cohesive and consolidated sectoral approach to future direction for the industry.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of mechanisms and locations available for obtaining angling licences.

Key Strategies:

Allocate angling and guiding opportunities in a manner that protects the quality of angling.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Feasibility of electronic angling licences evaluated.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Electronic licensing implemented if technically feasible and cost-effective.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Implementation, evaluation and ongoing operation of electronic licensing.

Measure:

Complete and implement Angling Guide Management Strategy/Classified Water policy review.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Stakeholder feedback evaluated and new regulations developed.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Regulations finalized and implemented.
- ▲ 2003/04 - Evaluate and report.

Outcomes:

- ▲ An equitable and responsibly managed non-tidal recreational sector.
- ▲ An agency that is more responsive to client needs.

Objective 3: Support the seafood and aquaculture sectors by providing an efficient and effective regulatory framework.

Key Strategies:

Streamline processes for application review, permits, authorizations and approval of licences by harmonizing processes with other federal and provincial agencies.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of federal/ provincial and inter-provincial processes harmonized.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Licensing Policy and Procedures Manual completed.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Aquaculture Licence Referral Administration System (ALRAS) reviewed and updated.

Provide accessible and timely licensing for fish processors, buyers, vendors and brokers.

Measure:

Provide electronic licence application capability.

Target:

- ▲ 2001/02 - Assess feasibility of electronic licensing and develop Action Plan.
- ▲ 2002/03 - Implement Action Plan, if feasible.
- ▲ 2003/04 - Assuming feasible, electronic licensing fully operational.

Ensure Fish Health Management Plans are in place for all finfish farms.

Measure:

Percentage of farms with Fish Health Management Plans in place.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 to 2003/04 - Ensure 100 per cent compliance annually.

Key Strategies:

Establish a fish health database for salmon aquaculture.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Report on fish health issues published annually.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – pilot test fish health database.
- ▲ 2002/03 and ongoing – publish fish health annual report.

Ensure processing and buying facilities are in compliance with food and safety standards in cooperation with Ministry of Health and Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

Measure:

Annual licensing and inspection of all fish processing facilities

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 to 2003/04 – Annual target - 100 per cent of facilities inspected, for which licences will be issued.

Outcomes:

- ▲ Demonstrated reduction in red-tape.
- ▲ Streamlined administration and demonstrated compliance.

Objective 4: Provide an effective framework for fisheries management and use through the implementation of clear policies, legislation, regulations and agreements with other governments and provincial agencies.

Key Strategies:

Harmonize the development of policies and legislation relating to fisheries management with other orders of government.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Increased number of policies that have been harmonized and agreements reached with other orders of government.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Implement partnerships with other governments and provincial agencies that benefit the fish resource and fisheries.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of Council of Fisheries Ministers and Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers resolutions adopted and implemented.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Full implementation of the Canada-B.C. Agreement on Management of Pacific Fishery Issues.

Implement partnerships with communities and First Nations.

Measure:

Number of forums supported and innovative approaches to governance adopted.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Implementation of Aquatic Management Board pilot.
- ▲ 2002/03 – Ongoing support to Aquatic Management Board pilot.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Evaluate Aquatic Management Board pilot.

Support treaty agreements and interim measures with First Nations.

Measure:

Number of treaty chapters and Interim Measures Agreements supported and implemented.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Full implementation of fisheries provisions of Nisga'a Treaty.

Outcome:

- ▲ Increased cooperation among governments, First Nations and communities.

**GOAL 4: A FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR
ENHANCED BY AN ADAPTIVE, SKILLED AND
EDUCATED WORKFORCE, AND WELL-
INFORMED PUBLIC.**

Objective 1: Create a skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

Key Strategies:

Provide extension services and access to training programs for industry participants, communities and First Nations.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Increased number and variety of courses available through regional colleges for training in finfish and shellfish aquaculture.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – establish baseline data.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 2003/04 increase course availability based on regional demand.

Measure:

Number of people trained.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – establish training opportunities for 60 people.
- ▲ 2002/03 – Increase number of people trained to 150.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Increase number of people trained to 180.

Partner with other agencies, such as the Open Learning Institute, to deliver training programs (e.g. aquaculture).

Measure:

Number of courses provided jointly with other agencies.

Targets:

2001/02 – three courses.
2002/03 – 2003/04 – five courses.

Outcome:

- ▲ An available, trained workforce that supports the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Objective 2: Enable local capacity building and facilitate clear understanding and support for agency decisions.

Key Strategies:

Enhance the *BC Fisheries* Web site to meet the needs of the public.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of visits to *BC Fisheries* Web site per day (base is 1,400 visits per day).

Target:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Increase number of visits by 75 per cent.
- ▲ 2002/03 – Increase number of visits by 40 per cent.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Increase number of visits by 30 per cent.

Provide on-line access to fisheries data.

Measure:

Percentage of requests for agency data met through the Web, versus direct contact with staff. Currently 33 per cent of requests for data require direct contact with staff.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – 45 per cent of requests met.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 60 per cent of requests met.
- ▲ 2003/04 – 80 per cent of requests met.

Provide up-to-date information to the public on fisheries conservation and development issues.

Measure:

Percentage of agency data accessible to outside users by Internet.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – 30 per cent of agency data available.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 50 per cent of agency data available.
- ▲ 2003/04 – 75 per cent of agency data available.

Key Strategies:

Utilize the Web site for public consultation on proposed policy or legislative changes.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

- ▲ Increased input from client and stakeholder groups resulting in better informed decision-making.

Outcomes:

- ▲ Improved public access to services and information.
- ▲ A clearer understanding of decisions.
- ▲ Better informed decision-making.

Objective 3: Build upon a dynamic, adaptive, well-informed and service-oriented organization.

Key Strategies:

Provide necessary training and development to ensure staff:

- ▲ have the skills and core competence for fisheries management and development work, and
- ▲ keep pace with changes in technology and its effective utilization in responding to change.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Number of training courses and conferences attended by staff.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – One per employee.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 2003/04 - Two per employee.

Measure:

Percentage of agency staff participating in training courses.

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – 60 per cent.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 75 per cent.
- ▲ 2003/04 – 90 per cent.

Use advances in technology to streamline and deliver government services more effectively.

Measure:

Percentage of *BC Fisheries'* services accessible via the internet.

BC FISHERIES PERFORMANCE PLAN 2001/02 - 2003/04

Key Strategies:

Performance Measures & Targets:

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – complete review of services for compatibility with internet accessibility.
- ▲ 2002/03 – 40 per cent of services accessible.
- ▲ 2003/04 – 60 per cent of services accessible.

Outcomes:

- ▲ A more highly-trained agency workforce.
- ▲ Enhanced ability of agency staff to meet client needs.

Objective 4: Ensure easy access to information required for informed decision making.

Key Strategies:

Develop and implement standards and systems for the collection, management and use of fish, fish habitat, fisheries and related economic and social data.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Measure:

Standards developed and implemented for the collection, management and use of fish, fish habitat, fisheries and related economic and social data.

Targets:

2001/02 – Develop work-plan and establish targets.

Collect and manage of province-wide fish, fish habitat and fisheries related data.

Measure:

Percentage of needed data in the Fisheries Data Warehouse or in other compatible databases. Data required: 100 per cent; Data in warehouse: 35 per cent; Data available via internets: 10 per cent.

Key Strategies:

Provide easy access for all staff to the full range of internal and external electronic information resources needed for informed decision making.

Performance Measures & Targets:

Targets:

- ▲ 2001/02 – Increase to 35 per cent.
- ▲ 2002/03 – Increase to 45 per cent.
- ▲ 2003/04 – Increase to 50 per cent.

Measure:

Enhanced efficiency and effectiveness of agency staff.

Outcomes:

- ▲ The organization is more responsive to client needs.
- ▲ A highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce.

RESOURCE LINKAGES

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES FOR 2001/2

Resource Allocation by Major Program Area (\$Millions)

Area	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2000/01
Development and Diversification				
Budget	\$14.833	\$14.833	\$14.833	\$15.697
FTEs	115	115	115	117
Selected Performance Targets	Target	Target	Target	
• Increase revenues from fisheries and aquaculture related activities in rural and coastal communities	10 - 15%	10 - 15%	10 - 15%	
• Increase revenues from seafood exports	10%	10%	10%	
• Increase training opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture sectors	10 - 15%	10 - 15%	10 - 15%	
• Increase expenditures for research and development activities	50%	20%	10%	
Conservation and Enhancement				
Budget	\$5.09 ¹	\$5.098	\$5.098	\$5.712 ²
FTEs	52	52	52	54
Selected Performance Targets	Target	Target	Target	
• Number of lakes and streams for which productivity is enhanced	5 - 6	5 - 6	5 - 6	
• Number of watershed-based fish sustainability plans completed for key watersheds	1 - 2	2 - 3	2 - 3	
• Number of Fish Recovery Plans initiated and completed on designated sensitive streams	2	2	2	
Transfers to Fisheries Renewal BC	\$14.92	\$14.92	\$14.92	\$7.5
• FsRBC is required to file a separate Performance Plan				
Total BC Fisheries Budget	\$34.851	\$34.851	\$34.851	\$28.909
Total FTEs	167	167	167	171

¹ Budget numbers for Conservation and Enhancement are net of recoveries and do not reflect projects funded by other agencies including: Habitat Conservation Trust Fund; Forest Renewal BC; and BC Hydro.

² 2000/01 budget for Conservation and Enhancement included \$920,000 for the Urban Salmon Habitat Program - now funded through Fisheries Renewal BC.

Appendix A

LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

BC Fisheries is directly responsible for the administration of the following legislation:

Fisheries Act

The Act provides for the regulation of activities associated with commercial fisheries and aquaculture operations, and the licensing of: fish-processing plants; fish-buying establishments; fishermen selling their own catch; marine plant harvesting; and aquaculture operations within the province.

Fish Inspection Act

The Act ensures quality and wholesomeness in the fish industry by providing the authority to regulate activities concerning the handling, processing, storing, grading, packaging, marking, transporting, marketing and inspection of fish and fish products. The regulations ensure that fish processed and sold within British Columbia have met specific requirements.

Fisheries Renewal Act

The Act provides for the establishment of a Crown corporation – Fisheries Renewal BC – for the purpose of undertaking strategic initiatives to renew the fisheries and enhance fish, fisheries and fish habitat in British Columbia.

BC Fisheries is also responsible for the administration of the following legislation as it relates to fish or aquatic plants:

Animal Disease Control Act

The Act provides statutory authority to limit the spread of contagious diseases in animals, including aquatic animals.

Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act

This Act protects farmers in Agricultural Land Reserves or aquaculture sites from nuisance lawsuits, nuisance bylaws and prohibitive injunctions if they are using standard farming practices.

Farming and Fishing Industries Development Act

The purpose of this Act is to enable producers of commodities of the farming and fishing industries to collect levies approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. The Salmon Marketing Council Regulation under this Act allows a council representing salmon harvesters to collect levies for the promotion and marketing of their products.

Wildlife Act

The Act provides authority for the issuance of non-tidal angling licences, permits, private fishpond licences, the regulation of the angling guide industry, and the conservation and preservation of fish stocks via the management of habitat.

Other fish and fisheries-related legislation:

Fish Protection Act

The Act is administered by the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; however, it includes significant implications for the protection of the province's fisheries resource including: ensuring water for fish in water allocation decisions; protecting and restoring fish populations; focusing on riparian protection and enhancement, and strengthening local environmental planning.

Federal Fisheries Act

The ministry exercises delegated authority under the federal *Fisheries Act* for the management of all non-salmon fish species within non-tidal waters of the province.

Proposed Federal Species at Risk Act

The federal government has introduced the *Species at Risk Act* to prevent wild species in Canada from becoming extinct due to human activities. It will apply to federal departments and agencies, lands including water, species, subspecies, biologically distinct populations, plants and animals including freshwater and tidal fish species and their habitats.

The main thrust of the legislation will be the establishment of a federal safety net, which will include a prohibition against any activities that adversely affect a federally listed species. This mechanism may be invoked by the Minister's Council, or the federal minister alone, where a jurisdiction is unable or unwilling to enact these protective measures.

Appendix B

AGREEMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

BC Fisheries takes a proactive role through formal and informal arrangements with the federal government, other provincial agencies and communities to ensure that our vision and mandate are met. Some of the more significant arrangements include:

Fisheries Renewal BC (FsRBC) – FsRBC is a Crown corporation established under provincial legislation, as a key investment agency for the renewal of the fisheries in British Columbia. The corporation reports to the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and undertakes strategic funding of projects to benefit fish populations and habitat, development and diversification of fisheries and products, and strengthening planning and partnerships to create jobs within the sector.

In 2001/02, FsRBC plans to invest approximately \$13.25 million in five key areas: Salmonid Renewal (\$9 million); Development and Diversification (\$1 million); Original Renewal Program Ideas (e.g. education, research, innovation) (\$.25 million); Strategic Investment Program (\$2.8 million); and the Planning and Partnership Program (\$.2 million). In addition, effective 2001/02, funding for the Urban Salmon Habitat Program (\$.9 million) has been transferred to FsRBC. This program, which is delivered in co-operation with *BC Fisheries* and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, provides annual funding for local government and community stewardship groups in the Georgia Basin, to undertake activities to protect salmon spawning and rearing habitat.

Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) – In co-operation with the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks the trust fund provides about \$2.6 million annual funding for a wide range of fisheries projects, including research, rehabilitation, inventory and education and projects. The majority of HCTF funding comes from a surcharge on hunting and freshwater sport fishing licences. *BC Fisheries* provides guidance in the selection and implementation of the projects funded by HCTF.

Canada – British Columbia Agreement on the Management of Pacific Salmon Fishery Issues – Creates a partnership between the federal and provincial government in the management of the Pacific salmon fishery. Pursuant to this agreement, the ministry will provide ongoing input to Fisheries and Oceans Canada on policies for the management of the Pacific salmon resource.

Memorandum of Understanding on Fisheries and Seafood Diversification – This agreement between the federal and provincial government establishes an orderly approach to the development of sustainable commercial fishing opportunities through the creation of partnerships between government and stakeholders.

Canada – British Columbia Memorandum of Understanding on Aquaculture Development – This agreement between the federal and provincial government advances the orderly growth and development of the aquaculture industry in British Columbia and clarifies the respective roles of Canada and British Columbia.

BC Fisheries and Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks Letter of Understanding on Fisheries Programs – This agreement establishes joint management of fisheries activities and programs under provincial jurisdiction. The agreement sets out the responsibilities of the two agencies with respect to fisheries policy, procedures, legislation and the delivery of fisheries programs.

British Columbia – Aboriginal Fisheries Commission Letter of Agreement on Fisheries Information Exchange – This agreement between the provincial government and the Aboriginal Fisheries Commission provides a process for information exchange on legislative, policy and program initiatives relating to fish, fisheries and fish habitat issues.

Table: Strategic Partnerships

Development and Diversification	Conservation and Fisheries Management	First Nations	Community Development
Fisheries Renewal BC	Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks	Aboriginal Fisheries Commission	Coastal Communities Network
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Fisheries Renewal BC	Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	Union of BC Municipalities
BC Salmon Marketing Council	Forest Renewal BC	Nisga'a Treaty	Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers
BC Shellfish Growers Association	BC Hydro	Fisheries and Oceans Canada	B.C. Assets and Land Corporation
BC Salmon Farmers Association	Habitat Conservation Trust Fund		Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Sport Fishing Advisory Board	Fisheries and Oceans Canada		Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture
BC Seafood Sector Council	Union of British Columbia Municipalities		Western Economic Diversification
Seafood Sector Alliance	Land Use Coordination Office		Community Futures Development Corp.
B.C. Assets and Land Corporation	Ministry of Forests		Community Fisheries Development Centres
Canada/B.C. Council of Fisheries Ministers	BC Conservation Foundation		Rural Development Office
Ministry of Small Business Tourism and Culture			
Ministry of Community Development, Co-operatives and Volunteers			
Tourism BC			

Appendix C

BC FISHERIES OFFICES

Minister's Office

Parliament Buildings, Room 346
Victoria BC V8W 9E2
Phone 356-2735
Fax 387-1522

Licensing and Inspection

Courtenay Access Centre
2500 Cliffe Ave
Courtenay BC V9N 5M6
Phone 250-897-7540
Fax 250-334-1410

Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery

34345 Vye Rd
Abbotsford BC V2S 7P6
Phone 604-852-5388
Fax 604-852-5420

Kootenay Trout Hatchery

Fort Steele BC V0B 1N0
Phone 250-429-3214
Fax 250-429-3202

Prince Rupert

201 - 3rd Ave West
Prince Rupert BC V8J 1N2
Phone 250-624-7521
Fax 250-624-7421

Victoria Headquarters

780 Blanshard Street
Victoria BC V8W 2H1
Phone 356-2735
Fax 387-1522

BC Fisheries UBC Office

2204 Main Mall UBC
Vancouver BC V6T 1Z4
Phone 604-222-6750
Fax 604-660-1849

Summerland Trout Hatchery

Site 11 Comp 8 RR 1
Summerland BC V0H 1Z0
Phone 250-494-0491
Fax 250-494-3046

Vancouver Island Hatchery

1080 Wharnccliffe Rd
Duncan BC V9L 2K7
Phone 250-746-1425
Fax 250-746-7163

Clearwater Trout Hatchery

40 Old N. Thompson Hwy E
PO Box 4172 RR 2
Clearwater BC V0E 1N0
Phone 250-674-2580
Fax 250-674-3572